



U.S. Department of Justice

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MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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**MANCHESTER MAN SENTENCED ON FEDERAL
COCAINE DISTRIBUTION CHARGES**

Re: United States v. Darwin Sanchez-Mateo

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE -- United States Attorney Tom Colantuono and U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration Special Agent in Charge Mark Trouville announced that Darwin Sanchez-Mateo, DOB 9-2-75, of Manchester, NH was sentenced on September 22, 2003 on federal cocaine distribution charges.

On April 11, 2003, Sanchez-Mateo was arrested in Salem, NH after an undercover operation by the Drug Enforcement Administration revealed that he had driven approximately eight ounces of cocaine from New York City to Manchester and Salem, NH. On June 11, 2003 he entered a guilty plea before U.S. District Judge Joseph A. DiClerico, Jr. to an information charging him with possession with intent to distribute cocaine.

Judge DiClerico sentenced Sanchez-Mateo to 37 months imprisonment, and also imposed a 3-year period of supervised release following the prison sentence, during which his behavior will be monitored by the U.S. Department of Probation.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated, "This case demonstrates our office's commitment to aggressively prosecuting drug traffickers, and especially those who transport drugs into New Hampshire's southern tier from New York City. This case is a prime example of the effectiveness of DEA's Cross Border Initiative. I will continue to commit federal resources to these efforts."

The conviction resulted from an investigation conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration's Cross Border Initiative (CBI), a Task Force based in Lowell, Massachusetts made up of federal agents from the DEA, FBI, IRS, and local police departments from northern Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire including the Salem, New Hampshire Police Department. The CBI's primary focus is drug trafficking over the Massachusetts-New Hampshire border. The prosecution was handled by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph N. Laplante, the Lead Attorney for the District of New Hampshire in the New England Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force ("New England OCDEF").